

It seems strange that a magnificent tree in the mountain gorges of the great African continent should be in danger of becoming extinct, but such is the case. In fact, so fast are some of the wonderful forest trees of the globe disappearing that our grandchildren, even when they circle the world through the air, will not have the supreme pleasure which the Africanders had, as, traveling at a snail's pace with ox teams across the veldt, they stood in the presence of the leafy giants of the Milanji cypress, whose crowns rose 140 feet above the earth. From Southern Rhodesia W. L. Thompson, of the American Board Mission, has sent the department seed of this wonderful tree (*Callitris whytei*; No. 55602) which survives now only in the gorges of that region not visited by forest fires, and it is hoped that these may grow and establish themselves in other regions.

G. H. Cave, the curator of the Lloyd Botanic Gardens at Darjiling, to whom in the past the department has been indebted for many courtesies, has sent a remarkable collection of seeds of Himalayan ornamental and economic trees and shrubs (Nos. 55669 to 55706). It includes one of the hill bamboos (*Cephalostachyum capitatum*; No. 55676); a yellow-flowered clematis (*C. grewiaeflora*; No. 55677); a species of that small genus to which belongs the Japanese loquat (*Eriobotrya hookeriana*; No. 55679) with egg-shaped yellow fruits three-fourths of an inch long, possibly useful for breeders or as a stock; *Ilex insignis* (No. 55682), which has proved hardy in Ireland; a bright-flowered Indigofera (No. 55683); the famous pink-flowered Himalayan magnolia (*Magnolia compbellii*; No. 55688); three species of Michelia (Nos. 55689 to 55691), trees with magnolialike flowers and foliage, one of them the principal timber tree of the Darjiling Hills; the Himalayan spruce (*Picea smithiana*; No. 55694); and a Himalayan cherry (*Prunus napaulensis*; No. 55696) from an altitude of 10,000 feet.

Guarana is a paste that is much used by the natives of the Amazon Valley to make a beverage which contains caffein and, like cacao and coffee, is a stimulant. It is prepared from the grapelike fruits of a climbing shrub (*Paullinia cupana*; No. 55738), the culture of which in Brazil has been a lucrative industry. Seeds of this shrub have been presented by Doctor da Costa, of Rio de Janeiro.

The so-called kiffy of Sierra Leone is the roasted seed of a cucumberlike plant (*Cucumeropsis mannii*; No. 55792) which is used as a condiment by the natives in the preparation of their remarkable dish known as dumboy.

Doctor Shirai, of Komaba, Japan, has presented plants of two distinct varieties of *Elaeagnus multiflora* (Nos. 55771 and 55772), the "Ogumi" and the "Togumi." As this species grows well on the Atlantic seaboard, these two large-fruited varieties will be wanted by those who have the ordinary small-fruited form.

Doctor Shantz has imported, in order to test again, the narras (*Acanthosicyos horrida*; No. 55763), a melonlike fruit which the Hottentots grow on the sand dunes of the Kalahari Desert and upon which they live for months.

The wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) has been determined to be botanically identical with the capulin of Central America and northwestern South America; but, whereas Americans have done nothing to improve this native cherry, our southern neighbors have